

When Is It Enough?

"And may G-d Almighty give you mercy before the man..." (Bereishis 43:14)

RASHI: A Midrashic explanation is: He who said to the Universe, "Enough!", may He say "Enough!" to my troubles. I have had no rest since my youth — trouble through Laban, trouble through Esau, the trouble of Rachel, the trouble of Dinah, the trouble of Joseph, the trouble of Shimon, the trouble of Benjamin (Genesis Rabbah 92:1).



Imagine the following: Klal Yisrael had a large army, went to war against the Greeks, and won the war! After the war was over, the Priests from the Holy Temple returned to the secret hiding place where they had hidden all the pure oil, and lo and behold, all the oil was intact and ready to be used immediately for the rekindling of the Menorah in the Temple. If all this had happened, would we be celebrating Chanukah now? We understand that the miraculous nature of the many into the hands of the few, the strong into the hands of the weak, etc. brings us to realize what we should know and feel all the time, which is that Hashem is running the world. When things just seem to work out as we expect naturally, we often fail to see that Hashem is also the orchestrator in these mundane situations.

I saw a parable on this subject by Rabbi Shimshon Pincus which I believe really hits the point.

A child goes to the store with his parent and asks his parent to buy him some kind of a treat that costs a few shekels. The parent responds, "It's too expensive!" How does the child feel when he hears this response? He feels that he is not even worth these few shekels, for the child knows that for these few shekels he would be pleased, and yet his parent is not willing to spend this money on him. We adults then tell the child, "No, your parent loves you, and you should not judge your parent based on the fact that he said this treat is too expensive." Even with this statement of reassurance, many children would not be certain that their parent really loves them, or how much that love is really worth.

A few days later, this same child is in desperate need of something more, not just a treat. The parent takes off a day of work, spends an enormous amount of time with the child, and lavishes his love on him. Now the child is certain that his parent loves him. Unfortunately for the

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FOR BOYS & GIRLS UP TO AGE 12

בית מדרש
אהבת שלום
רמת בית שמש

INVITES ALL WOMEN & CHILDREN OF THE COMMUNITY TO OUR

CHANUKAH EXTRAVAGANZA

SUNDAY EVENING
ZOS CHANUKAH / DEC 25

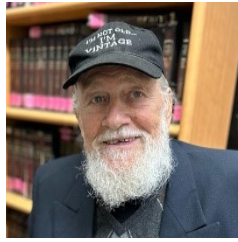
6:30PM-8:30PM
AHAVAS SHALOM SHUL
LACHISH 33, RBSA

DOUGHNUT DECORATING! MENACHEM THE CLOWN!
CHANUKAH QUIZ WITH RAV ZECHARIASH!

Shabbos Schedule Parshas Mikeitz לוח שבת פרשת מקץ

Erev Shabbos		ערב שבת
Mincha 1	12:30	מנחה א'
Extra Mincha	13:30	מנחה נוספת
Candle Lighting	16:04/16:24	הדלקת נרות
Mincha 2	16:26	מנחה ב'
Sunset	16:44	שקיעה
Shabbos Day		יום השבת
Brachos	08:00	ברכות
Shochin Ad	08:30	שוכן עד
Latest Shema – M. A.	08:20	סוף זמן ק"ש למג"א
Latest Shema – G'ra	09:08	סוף זמן ק"ש לגר"א
Mincha 1	13:00	מנחה א'
Pele Yoetz	15:45	פלא יועץ
Mincha 3	16:00	מנחה ג'
Sunset	16:45	שקיעה
Ma'ariv 1	17:22	מעריב א'
Ma'ariv 2	X	מעריב ב'

Spotlight on New Members



Shmuel and Marge (Mazel) Binder made Aliyah from Baltimore 1 year ago, with their son Benzi and live on Nachal Shacham. Shmuel is now able to learn in the morning while working for his American employer in the afternoon, and Marge has been busy enjoy shiuring and getting the whole family adjusted to Eretz Yisroel.

David Brown graces us with the following words: *Faith-Family-Friends one stop at our synagogue what a blessing to pray with people you love—David*

Alan and Gina Freedman made aliyah to RBS in December 2020 from Manchester in the midst of corona and live on Nachal Lachish. Alan is a retired dentist. The Freedmans are delighted to be close to their daughter (who also lives in RBS) and to be part of Kehillas Ahavas Shalom.

Yaacov and Shira Gitstein made Aliyah from New Jersey, USA 13 months ago with their 2 daughters Rivka and Rachel. Every day we are **מכירים טוב** **לבורא** for the **זכות** of living in our land amongst our people. We are very excited to be part of the Ahavas Shalom Community!

David and Staci Margulis made aliya from Chicago just over a year ago and are now living the dream here in RBS on Nachal Noam. They join four of their children who are living in Israel. In a former lifetime, David was a dentist with the most extensive music collection for a dental office and Staci was a beloved Jewish early education morah. David enjoys playing bass and eating leftovers. Staci is working part time and spoils the grandchildren.

Rafael and Sarah Schuster made Aliyah from Brazil 16 years ago and after spending their first year in Jerusalem, they now live on Nachal Lachish with their 6 children. Rafael is a programmer and Sarah is a graphic designer.

Yaakov and Zahava Schlesinger, made Aliyah from Santiago de Chile last July, directly to Bet Shemesh. Both are physicians and live on Nachal Lachish with their 3 children. Yaakov also enjoys drawing and developed "Mamlechet Kohanim", a Tanach-based card game for children.

Yonason and Jenny Serle made Aliyah from Chicago 3 years ago and they live on Nahar HaYarden with their 5

children. Yonason learns in kollel and teaches classes on various subjects, and works part-time in the computer software industry, and Jenny is a kallah teacher and women's educator at Neve Yerushalayim as well as other locations in Yerushalayim and Beit Shemesh.

Yehudah Sunshine made Aliyah 13 years ago. After spending 3.5 years in the old city and another 4 in Zichron Yaakov Yehudah came to rbs where he lives with his two sons on katlav. Yehudah works in cybersecurity marketing and was recently recognized for his contributions by being named 40 under 40

Aitan and Yael Zacharin made aliyah from Baltimore 3 years ago, after living in Miami for 4 years. They now live on Nachal Revivim with their 4 children. Aitan comes from a background in biotechnology and consumer products and today runs a company that invests in a variety of early to mid-stage ventures. Yael is a dental hygienist and is in the process of transferring her license to work in Israel.

New Member Chanukah Kiddush

You are cordially invited to a festive Kiddush THIS Shabbos, Parshas Mikeitz/Chanukah/Rosh Chodesh Where we will officially welcome all the new members to our kehilla!

Netziv Hayom

Sponsor **Netziv Hayom** in memory of your loved ones or in honor of a special occasion, and all the learning and davening that take place in our shul during that day will accrue to your merit.



Kislev 25 sponsored by Mrs. Phyllis Perl

לע"נ תמה בת יעקב מתתיהו ע"ה

Kislev 26 sponsored by the Escovitz Family

לע"נ חיה רחל בת משה מרדכי ע"ה

Kislev 28 sponsored by the Reich & Berger Families

לע"נ יוסף בן בנימין זאב ז"ל

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small child, catastrophe had to almost strike in order for him to appreciate that which was obvious to others.

Our appreciation of Hashem would have been lacking (like the boy before he was in the desperate situation) had the war against the Greeks been won in a natural way.

When Hashem created the world, the process was set in motion in a way that it would complete itself to the fullest. The *Daas Tevunos* explains the *gemora*, which teaches us that Hashem had to say *dai!* (enough!), for since He wanted Man to complete the world, He had to place him in an incomplete world. Hashem wanted us to complete ourselves and the world. This means that inadequacies are actually a blessing in disguise. Based on this, Rav Pinchas explains that this is why Hashem made this world incomplete: So that we should see His hand and His love for us through that which we have to accomplish. Regarding the prayer which Yaakov offered in the source verse above, Yaakov was davening that we should be in a position where Hashem's salvation brings about a realization of Hashem's love for us and therefore we should no longer need bad things to happen in order to feel this.

Every year on Chanukah we have an obligation to not only commemorate, but to relive the euphoria of our victory, as we say in the *brocho*, *Bayamin haheim bazman hazeh*. Just as in those times, so too in our times. Though we are spared the physical tension of having to go through this test, we are expected to share the same feelings of closeness to Hashem that they felt and to be grateful to Hashem for all the miracles that happen day in and day out (whether we see them or not).

Shiurim with the Rav

The Rav will be giving 2 shiurim this coming week:

SUNDAY 21:15: *Mishnayos*.

TUESDAY 20:15: *Hilchos Beis Knesses*

Both shiurim are given in shul and via ZOOM at this link: cutt.ly/AhavasShalomZoom



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כך, הרב פנחס מסביר שהסיבה הזו שה' ברא את העולם הזה לא מושלם - כדי שנוכל לראות את ידו ואת אהבתו אלינו באמצעות מה שעלינו לבצע - מסבירה את התפילה שנשא יעקב. יעקב התחנן שנהיה במצב שבו ישועת ה' מביאה למודעות של אהבת ה' אלינו, ולכן לא נצטרך עוד שדברים רעים יקרו לנו כדי להרגיש זאת.

בכל שנה בחג החנוכה, מוטלת עלינו החובה לא רק להנציח אלא גם לחיות מחדש את התלהבות נצחוננו, כפי שאנו אומרים בברכה, "בימין ההם בזמן הזה". בדיוק כמו בזמנים ההם, כך גם בזמננו. למרות שאין לנו את המתח הפיזי לעבור את הנסיון הזה, אנו צפויים להרגיש את אותן רגשות קירבה לה' שהם חשו, להיות אסירי תודה לה' על כל הניסים שקורים מדי יום ביומו (בין אם אנו רואים אותם או לא).

A Shabbos Story

By Yaakov Gitstein, a new member of Ahavas Shalom

Every Shabbos Chanukah we would go to our brother and sister in laws' home in Flatbush, Brooklyn.

Shabbos Chanukah is always one of the shortest of the year, and the traffic between New York and New Jersey is always a challenge.

We would all take the day off from school or work and allow up to 3 hours of travel time for the drive which is about 28 miles or 45.5 km.

It was stop and go traffic the entire drive there!

By the time we parked the car and arrived at our intended destination, it was candle lighting time.

When we arrived, Shira's sister informed us that we were staying somewhere else in the neighborhood. We had no idea where we were staying, or how to walk there, but wherever it was we knew we had to walk really quickly!

As we were walking, *Shkiah* was rapidly approaching.

It was clear to us we were not going to be able to arrive at our host's home on time.

We looked at all the homes and could see that people were already lighting their menorahs before lighting their Shabbos candles.

I then said to Shira, "we are going to need to find a place to store our stuff. We are not going to make it to our destination on time."

At that moment, I looked at one house, and said, "this is the place where we are going to stay for Shabbos, they have such a beautiful menorah!"



Hashem was very kind to us. We knocked on the door, they looked at us with a slightly bewildered look, and then graciously welcomed us in. The first question they asked of us, complete strangers to these folks, was "Did you light Chanukah lichtzen yet?"

Later, I explained my rationale for knocking on the door of this particular family. I said, "those who are meticulous to beautify the mitzvah of Chanukah candles above and beyond the requirements, will be meticulous with the mitzvah of hosting guests which requires a much greater effort."

At the moment when one realizes that all is lost, it then becomes abundantly clear that our help always comes from Hashem through miracles at the speed of light. The light that Hashem shares with us every day provides us with the clarity and strength to sanctify our time through the performance of mitzvos; in our story, the mitzvah of *Nairos Chanukah* and the opportunity appreciate and acknowledge the majesty and beauty of a miracle.

מתי אומרים "די!"

יְקַל שְׂקִי יִתֵּן לָכֶם רַחֲמִים לְפָנֵי הָאֵלֹהִים (בראשית מד:יד)

קל שקי... ומדרשו מי שאמר לעולם די, יאמר די לצרותי, שלא שקטתי מנעורי, צרת לבן, צרת עשו, צרת רחל, צרת דינה, צרת יוסף, צרת שמעון, צרת בנימין: (בראשית רבה צב:א)

תארו לעצמכם כך: לכלל ישראל היה צבא גדול כשיצאו למלחמה נגד היוונים, ובכך ניצחום. לאחר סיום המלחמה חזרו כהני בית המקדש למחבוא הסודי בו החביאו את השמן הטהור, והנה, כל כדי השמן היו חתומים ומוכנים להילקח מיד להדלקת המנורה מחדש בבית המקדש. אם כל זה היה קורה, האם היינו חוגגים את חנוכה עכשיו? אנו מבינים שהנצחון המופלא של גבורים ביד חלשים, ורבים ביד מעטים, וכו', מביא אותנו להבין מה שעלינו לדעת ולהרגיש תמיד, כלומר שה' מנהל את העולם. כאשר נראה שהדברים מסתדרים כפי שאנו מצפים באופן טבעי, אנו בדרך כלל לא רואים שה' הוא המנהל במצבים רגילים אלה.

ראיתי משל על הנושא הזה מאת הרב שמשון פינקוס שלדעתי באמת קולע לעניין.

ילד נכנס לחנות עם ההורים שלו ומבקש מהם לקנות לו איזה ממתק בכמה שקלים. ההורים עונים, "זה יקר מדי!" כשהילד שומע את התגובה הזו הוא עלול להרגיש שהוא אפילו לא שווה את השקלים הבודדים האלה, שכן הילד יודע עם כסף קטן הוא יהיה מרוצה, ובכל זאת ההורים שלו לא מוכנים להוציא עליו את הכסף הזה. המבוגרים אז אומרים לילד, "ההורה שלך באמת אוהב אותך, וזה לא נכון להניח שלא אוהבים אותך רק בגלל שאמרו שממתק הזה יקר מדי." אפילו עם הצהרת נחמה זו, ילדים רבים לא יהיו בטוחים שההורה שלהם באמת אוהב אותם מאוד.

כמה ימים לאחר מכן, אותו ילד זקוק בדחיפות למשהו נוסף, לא רק לממתק. ההורה מנצל יום חופש מהעבודה, מבלה זמן עצום עם הילד, ומרעיף עליו את אהבתו. כעת הילד בטוח שההורה אוהב אותו. אבל למרבה הצער, עבור הילד הקטן, היה צריך כמעט אסון כדי שיבין את מה שהיה ברור לאחרים.

ההערכה שלנו למה שה' עושה עבורנו הייתה חסרה וכמו הילד לפני שהיה במצב דחוף, לו היינו מנצחים במלחמה נגד היוונים בצורה טבעית.

כאשר ה' ברא את העולם, התהליך הופעל באופן שהעולם יהיה שלם במלואו. הדעת תבונות מסבירה את הגמרא, שמלמדת אותנו שה' היה צריך לומר "די!", כי מאחר שרצה שהאדם ישלים את העולם, היה עליו להעמיד עולם שאינו מושלם. ה' רצה שנשלים את עצמנו ואת העולם. זה אומר שהחוסרים הם בעצם ברכה במסווה. בהתבסס על

המשך בעמוד 3

אבות ובנים

19:00 Motza'ei Shabbos

AuB Shabbos afternoon for ages 3-7: 15:30-16:00



Chanukah Pizza Party sponsored by Benzi-Back and family!

Treats and Prizes sponsored by Rabbi & Mrs. Teichtal as a zchus for a Refuah Shleimah for Moshe Aryeh ben Nechamah.



Sponsor Avos uBanim for 160-200
Contact Shlomo Hollander AUB@ahavasshalom.org

Davening Changes for Chanukah

- First Shacharis at about 06:16 (Sun & Mon)
- Second Shacharis 07:15 meets in the hall (Sun & Mon)
- Extra Mincha about 16:20 (20 minutes before sunset)
- Extra Maariv about 17:00 (20 minutes after sunset)
- Schedule returns to "normal" at Mincha on Monday.

	יום (Sun)	ב' (Mon)	ג' (Tue)	ד' (Wed)	ה' (Thu)	ו' (Fri)
זמנים לימי חול עד פרשת ויגש	06:16, 07:15*, 08:05	06:17, 07:15*, 08:05	06:20, 07:15, 08:05	06:20, 07:15, 08:05	06:20, 07:15, 08:05	06:20, 07:15, 08:15
שחרית	06:38	06:39	06:39	06:39	06:40	06:40
Sunrise	06:38	06:39	06:39	06:39	06:40	06:40
מנחה	13:00, 15:15, 16:26	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	12:30, 16:30
Sunset	16:46	16:46	16:46	16:47	16:48	16:44
מעריב	17:06, 19:00, 21:00	19:00, 21:00	19:00, 21:00	19:00, 21:00	19:00, 21:00	* Hall

HaRav Avrohom Baruch Zachariash, Sh'lita, Rav
Su-Fr 08:30-09:15 and Su-Th 19:15-20
Cellphone: 052-763-5938
Binyomin Rubenstein, Chairman
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Administrative Secretary: Miriam Zakoo
Su & Tu 11:00-13:00 and Th 10:00-12:00
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Main Ahavas Shalom lists:
Email List: ahavasshalom.org/list
WhatsApp ahavasshalom.org/WhatsApp
Email Rav: ahavasshalom.org/email-rav

Newsletter Design: Lev Seltzer lev@ahavasshalom.org
Newsletter Contact: Send your lifecycle events, news, comments, etc. to lev@ahavasshalom.org. Remember: If we don't know about your event, we can't publish it!